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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 16, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Benny Tate, Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church, Milner, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Our most kind and gracious Heavenly Father, we thank You for this day and the privilege to approach Your throne. We are grateful that one of our forefathers, Ben Franklin, had the foresight to request that Congress begin each meeting by imploring the assistance of heaven.

Lord God, I lift up everyone here today to You in prayer, realizing that we often refer to them as politicians, but in Your Holy Book, you refer to them as ministers. And they are responsible to those they represent but ultimately to You.

I pray Your wisdom, direction, and guidance upon them and their families. I especially ask You to be with President Bush; lead him as he leads our Nation. I ask You to be with our soldiers, no matter where they are serving; protect them, and bring them home safe.

Lord, we still believe what George Washington stated more than 200 years ago: "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

May we always be keenly aware of what made this Nation great and may we return to You.

I pray all this, in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, until You come, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SOLIS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1474. An act to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute checks, to foster innovation in the check collection system without mandating receipt of checks in electronic form, and to improve the overall efficiency of the Nation's payments system, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1474) "An Act to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute checks, to foster innovation in the check collection system without mandating receipt of checks in electronic

form, and to improve the overall efficiency of the Nation's payments system, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3229. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to transfer to the Public Printer the authority over the individuals responsible for preparing indexes of the Congressional Record, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REVEREND DR. BENNY TATE

(Mr. COLLINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I introduce the Reverend Dr. Benny Tate from Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church in Milner, Georgia. June and I are regular visitors to Dr. Tate's church.

Dr. Tate reminds me of a quote from Alexis de Tocqueville who came to America in 1831 to study democracy. And he wrote, and I quote, "I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there; in her fertile fields and her boundless forests, and it was not there; in her rich mines and her vast world of commerce, and it was not there; in our democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution, and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good. And if America ever ceases to be good, America then will cease to be great."

Fourteen years ago Dr. Tate relocated to Georgia to pastor the Congregation of the Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church. Under his tenure, the average Sunday morning

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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